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**PLATFORM
of the
Portuguese
REVOLUTIONARY
COUNCILS**

& PRP (BR) MANIFESTO



**Proletarian text
No:1**

INTRODUCTION

The past two years have marked a turning point in the international class struggle. The final defeat of US imperialism in Indochina and the collapse of Portuguese colonialism in Africa have marked the exhaustion of the revolutionary national liberation movements, whilst the events in Portugal have marked the reawakening of the proletarian communist revolution.

According to the Marxist dialectical conception, the essence of counter-revolution consists in the propagation in a new situation of the slogans of a past revolutionary period. In the period of proletarian revolution the greatest counter-revolutionary danger comes to be presented by the parties of revolutionary democracy. This fundamental principal of communism, laid down by Marx in 1850, is amply illustrated by recent events. Five decades of counter revolution in Europe, during which the only politically progressive force in the world situation has seemed to be the democratic and nationalist movements of Asia and Africa, has given a little lustre to the slogans of revolutionary democracy. This has allowed various 'communist' and populist parties to bask in reflected glory and retain at least a threadbare progressive mantle. But a year of revolutionary development in Portugal has exposed such nationalist and democratic illusions.

The fundamental doctrines of revolutionary communism are being verified once again. Against all the revisionist theories of 'advanced democracy', 'peoples democracy' or 'socialist democracy', it is being revealed that the proletarian revolution takes the form of a revolution against democracy, for the establishment of the undivided dictatorial rule of the working class. The Socialist Party, the party of revolutionary democracy and representing the small and middle bourgeoisie, has become the front behind which the forces of international capital and the Portuguese exploiters mobilise to attack the proletarians.

In opposition to the bourgeois rights of universal suffrage it becomes clear once more that proletarian political power must rest upon exclusive organs of the proletarian class: the soviets or revolutionary workers councils.

Against the petit bourgeois pacifism peddled by the modern revisionists, with their talk of 'peacefull transitions', the Portuguese revolution has shown that the military question is at the heart of political power, and that without a workers army the workers have nothing. Each turning point in the revolution, each shift in political power from one class fraction to another has been dependent upon a test of military strength: 25 April, 28 September, 11 March. On this point, a certain lack of clarity may still have persisted this April to judge from one of the documents that we publish here, where it is not clear whether what is called for is the general arming of the proletariat or, on the other hand, a reforming of the existing bourgeois armed forces. (see document no 1, introduction).

In opposition to the romantic slogans on 'national liberation' raised by populist elements within and without the AFM, and calls for a 'battle for production' in the interests of the national economy it has become clear that these are nothing other than an attempt to restabilise Portuguese capitalism.

In opposition to the democratic petty bourgeoisie who wish to consolidate the revolution and achieve a 'democratic self managing socialism', (within which by some strange coincidence wage labour and private property are to survive), it becomes clear to revolutionary proletarians in Portugal that: it is our interest and our task to make the revolution permanent until all the more or less propertied classes have been driven from their ruling positions, until the proletariat has conquered state power and until the association of proletarians has progressed sufficiently far - not only in one country but in all of the leading countries of the world - that competition between the proletarians of these countries ceases and the decisive forces of production are concentrated in the hands of the workers. (Marx, Address of the Central Committee 1850)